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THE JERUSALEM POST

Vol. LII, No. 15786 Monday, December 17, 1984 • Kislev 23, 5745 • Rabi' Avram 24, 1405 IS280

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Economists added to team for U.S. talks

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The Treasury yesterday decided to add three economic experts to the delegation leaving today for the U.S. Two of the three are known supporters of a monetary reform that would peg the economy to the dollar.

The delegation is headed by Emmanuel Sharon, the Treasury's director-general. It will include the ministry's deputy director-general, Efraim Dovrat, and the head of the Bank Israel Research Department, Mordechai Fraenkel.

At the last minute, the ministry decided to add Prof. Nissan Liviatan, Michael Bruno and Eitan Berglass to the delegation.

Both Bruno and Liviatan are advisers to the Research Department of the Bank of Israel. They have expressed their support for a currency reform that would be based on a semi-dollarization of the economy.

The delegation is due to attend the Israel-U.S. Economic Development Group set up during the recent visit by Prime Minister Peres to Washington. The delegation is expected to raise Israel's request for additional aid for the coming two years in the amount of \$1.5 billion in civilian aid, and possibly \$400 million in military assistance.

Even before the appointment of the economic experts was made official, there were reports that during the talks the delegation was to raise the possibility of implementing a semi-dollarization plan. The appointment of Bruno and Liviatan is apparently confirmation of such reports.

Finance Minister Moda'i met yesterday with a U.S. senatorial delegation headed by Robert Kasten and Daniel Inouye of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The senators later met with Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi.

According to the Treasury, the senators stressed that as supporters of Israel their task in convincing their colleagues in the Senate to extend more aid would be made easier if there were signs that the government has taken steps to cut its budget and reduce monetary injections.

The cabinet yesterday failed to reach a decision on the size of the defence budget from which a \$100 million cut is to be made.

The cabinet approved the \$100m. cut last month, after adopting a \$300m. reduction in defence outlays in September. But because of a number of accounting problems, the Defence Ministry and the Treasury have been unable to agree on the baseline from which the reductions should be made.

The Defence Ministry says the post-cut defence budget should be \$2.7 billion, while the Treasury insists the figure should be \$2.2b. Cabinet secretary Yosef Beilin said after yesterday's meeting that the ministerial committee responsible for the defence budget would continue to discuss the issue.

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Mourners accompany the remains of 15 Tora scrolls from Mt. Zion to a Mount of Olives burial site yesterday.

Thousands mourn Tora scrolls

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Thousands of mourners yesterday walked as the remains of 15 Tora scrolls destroyed in a fire early Friday morning were carried at the head of a funeral procession from the Diaspora Yeshiva on Mt. Zion on their way to burial on the Mount of Olives.

Earlier, rabbis, government ministers, Knesset members, yeshiva students and other mourners listened to the traditional *El Malei Rahamin* memorial prayer, while members of the burial society sifted through the ashes in the synagogue's blundered ruins for last specks of the scrolls.

The participants packed the small courtyard outside the old domed synagogue and stretched out in every direction on Mt. Zion. The destroyed scrolls included several saved from the Nazis, including one which was salvaged from the Warsaw Ghetto and another which is said to have been written by the 13th century sage, Rabbi Meir Ben Baruch of Rothenberg. Ironically, he wrote a lament following the public burning of the Talmud in Rothenberg, which is traditionally recited by Ashkenazi Jews on Tisha B'Av.

With arson not established as the cause of the fire, speakers hesitated to point an accusing finger. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who donated a Tora scroll to the yeshiva to replace one of those destroyed, stressed that one cannot judge until one knows who is guilty. We are all saddened, including the non-Jews among us, Kollek said.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira urged those present to examine their souls and to repent, stressing that whoever was specifically guilty of the deed, the people of Israel had brought the calamity upon themselves through their own iniquities. The enemies of Israel are the enemies of the Almighty, he added.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

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(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Shamir hurrying back over crisis Levy warns: If Shas leaves, we leave too

By ASHER WALLFISH and MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporters

The Shas faction's letter of resignation which Prime Minister Peres read at yesterday's cabinet meeting triggered a time bomb that could blow apart the national unity coalition if it is not defused by tomorrow.

Frantic consultations to prevent Shas from quitting the coalition took place all day yesterday after Shas's guiding Rabbinical Council rejected Peres's midnight appeal to prevail on the party not to quit.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levy, who is handling the crisis in the absence of Vice Premier Shamir, reiterated the Likud's threat to follow Shas out of the coalition. Shamir is understood to be cutting short his official visits in Latin America and hurrying home today because of the tense situation.

Mutual accusations were hurled between the Likud and Alignment yesterday. However, Alignment ministers did not seem too concerned about a crisis, noting that the

Likud knows how much effort the Alignment put into the negotiations with Shas and how many concessions it obtained in the ministry dispute from the National Religious Party.

Deputy Knesset speaker Aharon Nahmias (Labour) said the crisis can be solved immediately, by giving the Interior Ministry to the NRP and the Religious Affairs Ministry to Shas.

Minister without Portfolio Yitzhak Peretz, the Shas leader, told reporters that the resignation of his four-man faction could be averted only if the party is given one "complete portfolio, either Interior or Religious Affairs."

Peretz's emphasis was on "complete," because apparently Shas now wants no deals with the NRP about transfer of functions from one ministry to another. It prefers, or says it prefers, to have one of the two portfolios, with exactly the same scope the ministry always had.

The resignation letter was Shas's third. Resignation of a minister takes statutory effect 48 hours after it is submitted to the cabinet in writing.

Political circles said that Levy, who was maneuvering the Likud into

a corner by threatening to resign if Shas does, is exploiting the situation to force the Likud to break up the coalition and thus to eliminate Shamir's chances of becoming prime minister when Peres's two years are up.

Levy said yesterday, after meeting with Shas, that Shas's resignation will jeopardize the partnership between the Likud and Labour Party. "It's no secret that we stand by our commitment to Shas. This is not a semantic matter. It is fundamental. The credibility of the Likud, its adherence to coalition agreements and its loyalty to a loyal partner is at stake," Levy said.

Peretz noted that Shas is not demanding that the Likud withdraw from the coalition, but is merely asking to preserve its own right to resign. "I explained to the Likud that Shas deserves a complete ministry, not half or three quarters of one. This is what was promised us in the coalition agreement. Peres and Shamir signed a cheque and now they must pay up," he said.

When the cabinet convened at 9 a.m. yesterday, the Likud ministers

(Continued on Back Page)

Jumblatt reportedly agrees to army moving south

Post Mideast Affairs Reporter and agencies

Druse leader Walid Jumblatt has reportedly agreed to the deployment of the Lebanese Army along the coastal road leading from Beirut to the Kharroub region just north of Israel's present line along the Awali River.

Under a revised version of the original Syrian-backed deployment plan worked out over a month ago, Lebanese Army troops would stay close to the coast road near Beirut, leaving the Druse in control of the heights, but further south would fan out to deploy in several villages including the inland Druse town of Shiheem.

Details of the new plan, apparently thrashed out in intensive consultations in Damascus last week between Jumblatt and Syrian President Hafez Assad, were attributed in agency reports from Beirut yesterday to unspecified "political sources."

The sources were quoted as saying the multi-sectarian Army Council is expected to meet today to set a starting date for a move into the tense Kharroub region, where Druse

and Christian militiamen have been fighting for over a month, making implementation of the earlier plan impossible.

If the reported agreement has in fact been reached - and it is clear that Jumblatt came under strong pressure from Assad and Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam in Damascus last week - the main obstacle will have been removed to the deployment of the Lebanese Army as far south as the Awali.

Both Damascus and President Amin Jemayel's administration in Beirut have been placing great importance on the deployment as a means of buttressing their negotiating position at the Nakoura talks by demonstrating that the Lebanese Army is in a position to take control of South Lebanon once Israel leaves - something Israel has expressed scepticism about.

Jumblatt has obstructed implementation of the plan for fear that the deployment of the Lebanese Army would neutralize the advantage his Druse militiamen enjoy over their Christian rivals south of Beirut.

3 killed, 7 hurt in road accidents

Jerusalem Post Staff

Three persons were killed and seven injured in road accidents around the country yesterday.

One man was killed and three people were hurt when a car crossed the centre divider and hit a tree near the Megiddo Junction. The injured were taken to Afula hospital.

Two persons were killed and two others injured when a truck collided with another vehicle on the Golan Heights. The accident happened on the road between Kibbutz Sha'al and Nafah.

In Ramat Gan, a woman driver and a two-year-old child standing on the sidewalk were both injured critically when the car the woman was driving veered off the road and struck the child before hitting utility pole.

'Floating parties' in centre-stage

More than meets the eye in crisis

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The crisis over Shas is not nearly as petty as many pundits suggest. Premier Peres knew what he was doing when he decided to call on Rabbi Ovadia Yosef at 11 p.m. Saturday.

Nor were the Likud ministers insensitive yesterday, as Health Minister Mordechai Gur intimated, when they left yesterday's cabinet debate on defence spending to caucus with Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, the Shas leader.

Both Labour and Likud know what is at stake. And what is at stake is not merely the integrity of the national unity coalition.

The issue is the struggle for the centre. The historic battle between the two major political movements for what in other countries, with other systems, are called the "floating votes," and in our country might be called the "floating parties."

The left-liberals who fault Peres for praying at the Western Wall, for eating kosher in Paris, for holding nocturnal meetings with rabbis of

not like it, but even they recognize that the "floating parties" are the religious parties. Time and again the cruel electoral arithmetic has proved that without their fickle and frustrating alliance, no stable government is possible.

Former prime minister Menachem Begin is not Orthodox, but he had no trouble recognizing this reality.

In 1977 he won the battle outright, and again in 1981. The religious bloc was swept into the "national camp." One of his most acute and penetrating disciples, Dan Meridor MK, considers this the master's greatest political achievement.

Of course there were other factors which aided him in his victory. But the fact remains that Begin's successful wooing of the National Religious Party, Agudat Yisrael, and Poalei Agudat Yisrael enabled him to cast the Democratic Movement for Change under Yigael Yadin between 1977 and 1981, and to return to power comfortably in 1981 - even

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

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for displaying foreign exchange rates and securities prices.

UK may favour Soviet space arms view

LONDON (Reuters). - Soviet Politburo member Mikhail Gorbachev met Prime Minister Thatcher yesterday for talks at which he was expected to urge her to use her influence with the U.S. to press for a ban on space weapons.

As their discussions got under way at the Premier's country residence, Chequers, a senior British government official indicated that London would give Gorbachev a sympathetic

hearing and might go some way to agreeing with Moscow's views.

Gorbachev, no.2 in the Soviet hierarchy, was due to discuss a wide range of bilateral and East-West affairs at the meeting, but both British and Russian officials said they expected space arms to be the chief topic.

Moscow has said it regards this issue as the main item on the agenda for next month's U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva and made clear it wants the West European powers to

urge President Reagan to abandon his "Star Wars" defence programme.

Thatcher is due to meet Reagan in Washington later this week, and British officials said Gorbachev would regard yesterday's meeting as a crucial opportunity to encourage Britain's misgivings about the President's plans.

In a television interview broadcast as the talks started, Foreign Office Minister of State Malcolm Rifkind made clear that Britain opposes the military use of space and is sympathetic to Moscow's demands for a ban on cosmic weapons tests.

"We have a British view and it is a British view we are going to put forward," he said. "We do not wish to see outer space being used to pose a further threat to mankind."

Before travelling to Chequers, Gorbachev visited the headquarters of the John Brown engineering company and stressed the importance of improving bilateral trade ties.

The Politburo member spent two hours with company officials, discussing in detail its bid for a \$600-million contract to build a plastics factory in southern Russia.

The New York Times *Weekly Review* is not included in today's edition, due to circumstances beyond our control.

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CHICAGO	6	32	46
COPENHAGEN	3	36	37
FRANKFURT	6	32	46
GENEVA	3	7	45
HAMBURG	3	7	45
HONG KONG	28	68	72
LONDON	19	27	81
LUXEMBOURG	4	9	44
MADRID	5	11	46
MONTREAL	7	19	28
NEW YORK	2	6	43
PARIS	4	9	44
PRAGUE	2	6	43
SAO PAULO	23	26	29
STOCKHOLM	2	6	43
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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Rain possible in North.

	Yesterday's	Today's
Humidity	53	61
Min-Max	4-12	13
Jerusalem	53	61
Haifa	54	62
Nahariya	67	5-10
Salad	51	13
Tel Aviv	51	13
Be'er Sheva	48	6-16
Netanya	48	6-16
St. Rita	48	6-16
Jericho	45	6-20
Uman	43	8-19
Beth Sheva	50	5-18
Elat	31	9-21

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Wizo's annual Hanukkah bazaar will open at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 22, at Beit Wizo, 38 Rehov David Hamelech, Tel Aviv. It will feature fashions, toys, cosmetics, arts and crafts, books, housewares, and Mexican paintings and handicrafts. The bazaar will continue on Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Monday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ARRIVALS

Sarah Gorney, Chairwoman, Ladies Guild of Yeshurun Central Synagogue, from London where she represented Yeshurun at the dinner given in honour of Arthur Haheri's 80th birthday.

DEPARTURES

Former French prime minister Jacques Chirac-Delmas, after a four-day visit to Israel.

Protect our interests Hillel to Europeans:

Post Knesset Correspondent
The Parliament of Europe should have Israel's interests at heart and protect them, Knesset Speaker Shimon Hillel said yesterday.

Addressing a delegation of the Parliament of Europe visiting the Knesset for its semi-annual dialogue, Hillel also said that Israel's economy could suffer as a result of the entry of Spain into the Common Market.

If the Parliament of Europe pressed Spain to establish diplomatic relations with Israel as a condition of entry, Hillel said, Spain will find it simpler to free itself from Arab extortion.

Safad municipal strike

SAFAD (Itim). - Municipal workers here struck yesterday and are expected to remain on strike today if a way is not found to pay their last month's salaries.

Mayor Ze'ev Perl said yesterday that in recent months the city had eliminated employees' overtime, cut auto allowances, reduced heating of city offices to two hours daily and taken other measures to save money, but that the government had not transferred funds to help the city out of its financial predicament.

CHRISTMAS TREES. - The Haifa municipality is making Christmas trees available to members of the city's Christian community. The trees, costing \$1,500 each, can be purchased from the municipality's nursery opposite Kfar Galim near Tirat Carmel beginning tomorrow between 8 a.m. and noon.

HOME NEWS

Histadrut would accept higher subsidized prices

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - The Histadrut yesterday indicated it would accept some increases in the prices of subsidized commodities even before the current wage-price freeze agreement ends.

Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar maintained, however, that such increases should be made only in January, the last month of the economic package deal.

At a meeting of the Histadrut Central Committee yesterday, the labour federation's top forum decided to seek from the government "talks on ways to extend the package deal."

A Histadrut press release quoted Kessar as telling the central committee: "In the overall context of these debates, in the period of transition and connection between the present accord and the new one the Histadrut will even be ready to make a gesture to the government and agree on some changes of distortions created in the system of subsidies."

An aide to Kessar later said he expected Histadrut consent to raising the price of fuel for private cars, for example.

In the central committee debate, Yitzhak Barkat of the Independent Liberal Party and Yigal Bin-Nun of Shinui explicitly supported hiking the prices of subsidized goods.

Lea Levavi adds:

The stability and public confidence engendered by the economic package deal are being endangered by the talk of reduced subsidies. Nahum Fassa, a member of the Histadrut Central Committee and head of the Histadrut's Education and Culture Department, said at a Tel Aviv press conference.

Nissim to deliver opinion on Sharon's sojourn in U.S.

By ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim is to submit a reasoned opinion soon to the cabinet regarding the stay of Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon in the U.S.

Prime Minister Peres announced this at yesterday's cabinet session after a question by Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein.

Peres said that a cabinet minister is entitled to sue others for libel; that another minister had been duly appointed to replace Sharon during his absence; and that upon his return Sharon would be asked to explain which of his expenses were gener-

ated in his capacity as minister, and which for the purpose of his libel suit against Time magazine.

Rubinstein said there had been a justified public outcry because of the inordinate length of time Sharon is spending abroad. Sharon's absence is felt because he is in charge of a crucial ministry, Rubinstein added.

Peres said that he trusts all the ministers as a matter of course, and he would not turn himself into their overseer.

Nissim said Sharon's absence had not impaired to work of the latter's ministry.

Nissim is Sharon's replacement.

Sharon vows to continue libel suit

NEW YORK (JTA). - Ariel Sharon, writing on the op-ed page of The New York Times Sunday, vowed to continue his libel case against Time magazine because the alternative "is to let them get away with murder."

Sharon was replying to critics who argue that libel actions such as his have a "chilling effect" on the First Amendment freedom of speech clause.

The minister-without-portfolio, insisting that the Time article charging he approved the massacres in Sabra and Shatila "was a blood libel and there is nothing worse," accused the magazine, in effect, of anti-Semitism.

Sharon wrote that Time was not simply calling him a murderer, but that the objects of its malice were the Jews and the Israeli people.

"They sought and still seek to blacken the name of the Jew and the Israeli state and it is not a new thing for Time. It is an old device. Were I to walk away from this, I would be allowing this blood libel to spread like a cancer. This is intolerable, it is no option at all. So I chose to come to an honourable court to legally restore my honour and the honour of my people," Sharon wrote.

He added: "And for this, too, I am pilloried."

FLOATING PARTIES

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

...between labour Zionism and religious Zionism.
Agudat Yisrael, also in sad straits after the election, nearly followed suit. Throughout the coalition negotiations this ultra-Orthodox party, now solidly Ashkenazi, perched on the fence. Half of its leaders made no bones of their disenchantment with Likud and their preference for Labour.

And now Shas.
If Peretz's resignation takes effect tomorrow, there will be bitterness between Shas and Likud, a sense of let-down, of betrayal - regardless of how hard deputy premier David Levy tries to shift the blame onto Labour.

After all, Shas's voters are not fools. They heard Haim Corfu (Likud-Herut) accuse Peretz of reneging on the deal. They heard Corfu fling back Peretz's accusation of incoherence. They heard him imply that the Shas men were job-seekers. And they will begin to see, as the

having walked on Friday night through the cold Paris streets to his meeting with Yves Montand and Simone Signoret, and for having had kosher food served to him at the Elysee.

Does that cause the premier's left-liberal critics unbearable concern or embarrassment? If so - and to judge by a flurry of media comment, it does - then that is just a sad reflection of how askeed intelligent people's political priorities can sometimes become.

Levy's judgement is sounder. So is Vice-Premier Shamir's. Hence their frantic efforts to prevent Shas's departure.

For they know that the secession of Shas could be not merely "the dislodging of the first stone in the unity coalition," as Peretz puts it, but another ominous (for the Likud) rolling of another religious stone away from the hitherto almost impregnable bastion of the nationalist-religious alliance.

Tel Aviv near normal after 11-day strike

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Life in the city was almost back to normal yesterday as more than 10,000 municipal workers resumed regular work after their

11-day strike.
Garbage men began collecting trash from market places Saturday night and collected thousands of tons of garbage from city streets yesterday.

The city's hospitals, out-clinics, high schools, nursery schools, welfare offices, fire stations, water plants and offices opened yesterday. It will take the workers seven to 10 days to overcome the backlog of work accumulated during the strike, municipal sources said yesterday.

The workers received their salaries yesterday, 11 days late, following an agreement between the city and the commercial banks, and were promised to be paid on the 5th of next month and on the 1st of the month from February on.



Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi is introduced yesterday to U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye by Senator Robert Kasten. The senators are in Israel to study the country's aid request. (Isaac Harari)

Leftists to rally for Darousha when Herut pickets Iksal

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Mappam's Young Guard and Peace Now activists intend to demonstrate tomorrow opposite the Herut Young Guard outside Iksal, the home village in Galilee of Labour Knesset Member Abdel Wabab Darousha. The planned Herut Young Guard demonstration is against Darousha's attempt to speak at the Palestinian National Council at the end of November.

The Herut group decided to demonstrate outside the village instead of in it at the request of Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev. Labour Secretary Uzi Baram yesterday asked Bar-Lev to prevent the demonstration, saying it could lead to bloodshed.

Citizens Rights Movement MKs Shulamit Aloni and Yossi Sarid meanwhile called on fellow MKs to "stop the hysteria" surrounding the young Herut members' demonstration. But Sarid and Aloni said that the group's right to demonstrate must be preserved, because that could encourage interference with the rights of other groups to demonstrate.

Reports of the planned demonstration aroused a storm in Iksal, whose residents declared they would hold a general strike tomorrow if the demonstration takes place. Village elders fear clashes between the demonstrators and residents.

Village Council Head Salah Darousha sent telegrams to the police minister and the prime minister warning of violence between the residents and demonstrators. "Darousha was not sent to the Knesset by the village but by the Labour Party," the council head said. "If they want to demonstrate against him, let them do it in the Knesset and not here in the village."

The Herut demonstrators intend to give Darousha a suitcase, a visa to Jordan and a copy of the Palestinian Manifesto.

Mappam's Young Guard yesterday announced that the demonstration outside Iksal would be a provocation and an attempt to sabotage the search for peace and understanding between Jews and Arabs. Peace Now members will demonstrate for Darousha's right to act for peace in the Middle East.

Murphy meets with Hussein, may return to Israel today

MMAN (AP). - U.S. Assistant

secretary of State Richard Murphy met King Hussein and other Jordanian officials yesterday to discuss the Middle East situation, especially efforts under way to end Israel's occupation of South Lebanon.

The king and the envoy had a working lunch at the royal Bassman Palace. Murphy, who has been shuttling in Middle East capitals for more than a week, flew here from Cairo, where he met on Saturday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Little information on Murphy's talks was released. Both Jordanian and U.S. officials here said all regional issues were reviewed, although Murphy was concentrating on the slow-moving, Israeli-Lebanese negotiations aimed at ending Israel's 30-month-old occupation of Southern Lebanon.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Masri, who met with Murphy before the luncheon, said the envoy briefed

him on the progress of the talks.

The official Jordanian news agency Petra said Masri renewed his appeal to the U.S. to drop its opposition to a broad-based Middle East peace conference.

Hussein has been campaigning for the convening of an international conference in which the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israel, other concerned Middle East countries and the permanent member nations of the UN Security Council would participate "on equal footing."

Following his meeting with Mubarak in Cairo on Saturday, Murphy told reporters: "We don't think it (such a conference) is a setting that will be useful for advancing constructive changes."

Sources in Amman said Murphy would probably end his visit to Amman this morning and fly to Israel for a second visit within a week.

Cabinet okays amendment to aid NII beneficiaries

By ILAN CHAIM
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The cabinet yesterday endorsed a proposed amendment to the National Insurance Institute Law which is designed to protect the benefits of the neediest NII beneficiaries from inflation for one year. The amendment is to get its first reading in the Knesset next week.

NII Director-General Nissim Baruch told The Jerusalem Post that he is pleased the Treasury and the NII had reached agreement after a month of negotiations.

The amendment - which is expected to be passed quickly - would provide full linkage for the stipends which are the sole income of 235,000 elderly pensioners, widows and disabled persons. These benefits would

be automatically linked to the cost-of-living increments paid to wage-earners.

Furthermore, the amended law would guarantee that the base for calculating the benefits - a three-month average wage determined by the Central Bureau of Statistics - would not be allowed to drop below the level of the previous month. In effect, this would raise the base to include the latest calculable Co-L increment.

With regard to this month's benefits, the ministers decided to apply the same temporary arrangement in effect during the emergency August-through-October regulations. This affords NII beneficiaries almost the same amount of benefits they will receive when the amendment becomes law.

Worn tires a major cause of accidents

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Worn tires rather than faulty brakes are the major cause of mechanically-caused road accidents in Israel, the director of the Road Safety Administration, Moshe Amirav, said yesterday.

Amirav, speaking as he launched the Transport Ministry's month-long "Are Your Tires Ready for Winter?" campaign, said that statistics indicate that the number-one villain

in approximately 50 per cent of road accidents in the country attributable to mechanical failure or skidding is the tire.

Scores of policemen, automobile-licensing inspectors and hundreds of volunteers fanned out yesterday to all parts of the country to begin the drive. Twenty police teams and two inspection vans were operated by the Road Safety Administration are to make spot checks of car and lorry tires on roads throughout the country; vehicles with faulty tires will be ordered off the roads immediately, and their owners fined.

As part of the campaign, 300 tire shops have begun a free-inspection scheme under which no labour charges will be added for replacing tires.

TORA SCROLLS

(Continued from Page One)

A similar theme was developed by Minister without Portfolio Yosef Shapira, who said that the destruction of the Tora scrolls was punishment for the "unholy disputes" within Israel.

Other speakers included Education Minister Yitzhak Navon and MK Menahem Porush of Agudat Yisrael, which has called upon Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev to set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the blaze.

Who would have believed, asked Porush in a choked voice, that the Tora scrolls which we thought had found refuge in Zion would be burned here, on Mt. Zion? Heaven forbid that it could have been a Jew who had committed this criminal act, he said.

As the crowd crushed forward, the remains of the scrolls were carried out. Yeshiva students fought to kiss the clay jars in which the remnants of the scrolls were to be buried.

Two Kach activists tried to display placards, but Diaspora Yeshiva's Rabbi Mordechai Goldstein called on them not to make political profit from the tragedy. A shouting match developed between them.

From the synagogue, which is part of the Chamber of the Holocaust complex, the funeral procession made its way on foot to the Dung Gate outside the Western Wall. From there, buses took the participants to the Mt. of Olives where the burial took place in a special section reserved for holy books.

Weizman: Shamir should show more initiative

TEL AVIV (Itim). - "I find it regrettable that the foreign minister does not initiate more peace moves, since the state of our relations with Egypt is undoubtedly more important than our relations with nations like Panama and Venezuela," Minister without Portfolio Ezer Weizman said yesterday.

Weizman, who said that he himself does take some initiatives, but does nothing without the approval of Prime Minister Peres, yesterday met with the charge d'affaires at the Egyptian Embassy, Mohammed Bassiouni.

Weizman, who was speaking in an interview with Kol Yisrael radio, said he sees Egypt as the central influence in the Middle East and that he does not believe any dialogue between Jordan and Israel is possible before there is a thaw in Israel's relations with Egypt. He added that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak sees the PLO as an important side in the conflict.

"Why shouldn't we initiate some steps, and then go full force for a breakthrough, rather than sit in place prying nothing can be done?" Weizman asked. He said the question of peace moves would test the unity government, and that "if they manage to bridge their differences, that's fine, and if not, their ways would probably part."

On Lebanon Weizman said that if an agreement is not reached soon he would support a unilateral withdrawal to the Zaharani, the Litani, or perhaps as far back as the international border.

Youth, 19, jailed for relations with sister

HAIFA (Itim). - A Galilee villager was yesterday sentenced to six months in jail by the district court here for having sexual relations with his sister, a minor, and making her pregnant.

The court found that the youth, 19, took advantage of their parents' absences to have relations with his sister, 16.

The girl gave birth to a premature child who she abandoned and who died.

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Her Children
Grandchildren and
Great-grandchildren

Aid said held back from Malhata Beduin

By LIOA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSHEBA. — The government has failed to provide the same development subsidies to the new Beduin towns of Arouar and Kuseifa as it has to their Jewish neighbours Arad and Dimona — even though the Beduin towns meet the same criteria for subsidies, says Hazi Yehzekel, local head of the agency charged with settling Beduin in the towns.

Yehzekel adds that Beduin are asked to pay the full price for shop space in the projected small industry complex in Arouar. Industries located in the nearby Jewish towns pay reduced rates for space — a subsidy given because the towns are located far from the country's centre.

The 6,000 Beduin of Tel Malhata were evacuated to Arouar and Kuseifa over a year ago to make way for the new Nevatim Air Force base 40 kilometres east of Beersheba, but the infrastructure in Kuseifa has still not been ready for an industrial zone.

Yehzekel said that the Beduin have little money and resent the apparent discrimination. "We sent letters to and called the Housing Ministry and the Israel Land Administration in May, and still have no reply," he said.

Gideon Gordon, the local director of the Housing Ministry, told *The Jerusalem Post* that "it's a mistake to mix things that don't go together. The conditions and criteria for the Beduin and Jewish populations are different, for better or for worse." He noted that in Kuseifa and Arouar, any Beduin can receive a 75 per cent subsidy in buying a developed dunam of land, and that no Jew gets this deal.

"We still have not finalized the conditions of sale of space and structures for the small industry area in Arouar. It will only be ready in a month or so, so there is really no information and any criticism is premature and unfounded," he said.

Gordon also rejects the charge by the Civil Rights Association that the towns were built to provide cheap labour for Jewish industry rather than to promote Beduin economic independence.

He said it is uneconomical to build small local factories rather than large regional ones — a mistake for which many development towns are now paying. Locally, he said, only service industries such as carpentry shops and garages should be set up.

The industrial zone in Arouar is 200 dunams, of which nearly 50 have already been equipped with water and sewage lines and roads.

Abie Nathan lands in Ethiopia with plane-load of supplies

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP). — Peace crusader Abie Nathan arrived in this famine-stricken African country yesterday with a plane-load of relief supplies donated by the world Jewish community.

"There's no government assistance in this whole project," the 57-year-old Nathan stressed. Ethiopia, like most black African states, broke diplomatic ties with Israel following the 1973 war.

"It is strictly a project of the Jewish people around the whole — a Jewish effort from Brooklyn, New York, all the way down to Australia," he told an impromptu news conference.

of the \$300,000 shipment he

shepherded yesterday. Nathan said: "We brought equipment to set up a complete refugee camp for 8,000 people. It includes hospital tents, kitchen tents, kitchen equipment, two generators, over 600 family tents for 12 people in each — mattresses, cots."

"We want to make it a humane place," he went on, "also electric poles with lights like a little town."

Nathan said he envisages camps sheltering 100,000 refugees.

Nathan first went to Ethiopia in early November to survey the needs of the famine victims and then returned to Israel to launch a fundraising drive. He said the response to his campaign was lightning fast.



Shmuel Propper, head of the Wax Museum in Tel Aviv, arrives yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport with a likeness of American music idol Michael Jackson.

Unpaid bills may 'paralyze' government-owned hospitals

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Government-owned hospitals may soon be "paralyzed" if they do not pay at least \$1700 million owed to contractors and suppliers.

Business managers of more than a dozen hospitals met over the weekend with Treasury representatives and Health Ministry officials in an effort to find a solution to the financial problem.

Representatives of the hospitals, including large general hospitals like Poriyah, Assaf Harofeh, Rebecca Sieff (Safed), and smaller specialized units caring for psychiatric patients and the chronically ill, say that if they do not pay these debts, the contractors and suppliers will stop providing services to the hospitals.

The Health Ministry dipped into its emergency fund last week to pay electricity bills amounting to more than \$150m, for Wolfson Hospital in Tel Gaborim, where there was the possibility the Israel Electric Corporation would cut off electricity.

Services for which large sums are owed include laundry, technical maintenance of air conditioners, heating units and X-ray and surgical equipment. Supplies for which the hospitals are in debt include electricity, drugs, food, fuel and disposable equipment.

One administrator said that the hospitals at the moment are managing to pay salaries and not always even that. "If we don't pay our bills, we face a possible paralysis of the whole system," he declared.

Last night Health Minister Mordechai Gur managed to get a transfer of funds to several major hospitals where employees who were to have received their salaries last week had not yet been paid, thus averting a major hospital strike.

The health ministry spokesman declined to give details as to the total indebtedness of the hospitals but said that the "situation is serious, even more than people imagine."

Health Ministry officials are to continue discussions on the situation with the Treasury today.

Industry Ministry's report on Ata called 'unprofessional'

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Management consultant Dov Roth yesterday branded the report by the Industry and Trade Ministry's inquiry team into the bankrupt Ata textile firm as "superficial and unprofessional."

"I would not advise a prospective purchaser or any other interested party to take over Ata on the sole basis of this report," Roth told a press conference.

He charged that the report had been based only on the evidence of financial consultants, and had ignored such factors as marketing and engineering.

Roth, general manager of Amit management consultants firm, maintained that the team headed by Yehuda Gil had shown lack of responsibility in taking on the task of investigating Ata's plight and proposing a recovery plan while lacking the necessary professional expertise.

"A survey aimed at saving a company like Ata with 2,602 employees, which had to be prepared in two short weeks is obviously superficial," he said.

The team had recommended staff dismissals in various departments, but no overall reorganizational plan. The findings also had not taken into account Ata's market potential, both at home and abroad, he said.

He said the report did not make Ata an attractive proposition for a potential purchaser, although the picture may not be as black as had been painted.

Roth said he has established his own team of business and financial

experts to investigate Ata's operations free of charge.

Apart from the resources of his own firm, Roth said he had enlisted the support of Prof. Dov Peckelman, a marketing expert from Tel Aviv University; Prof. Itzhak Ben-Ephraim, an industrial engineering management expert of Ben-Gurion University; and Ze'ev Broshi, senior lecturer at the Shenkar Textiles Institute.

The Haifa Labour Council has already given its support for a new survey, and Roth hopes to win the approval of Ata's receivers.

Roth believes that with the support of the receivers, the Haifa District Court will extend the deadline for Ata's closure scheduled for December 31, to allow his team to complete this task.

Ata employees and their families, along with Haifa workers, plan a mass rally outside Kiryat Ata's town hall tomorrow to protest against the threatened closure of the firm.

On Thursday five bus loads of employees will travel to Tel Aviv to demonstrate outside Beit Asia, the headquarters of the Eisenberg Group, Ata's main shareholders. This will be followed on Sunday by a demonstration outside government offices in Jerusalem. Some employees also plan a hunger strike.

The campaign was decided at a meeting of Haifa works committee representatives last week.

The Histadrut said yesterday it would provide the know-how to help Ata recover on condition that the government provides "the other means" required.

Austrian Airlines raps El Al's low fares

Post Aviation Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A senior Austrian Airlines official indicated yesterday that El Al had forced his company to reduce fares here, but said it would not maintain the low price for long.

Herbert Bammer, deputy director-general for commerce, was speaking at a press conference marking the opening of the airline's new offices on Rehov Ben Yehuda.

"I hope they had a good reason" to offer the low fare, he said alluding to the \$279 price. "We were quite reluctant to follow El Al."

Bammer said Austrian Airlines could have forced El Al to set a higher minimum fare for flights to Vienna since these require a bilateral agreement. However, the airlines

realized that if it were much cheaper to fly to Zurich or Munich, people would fly there and continue to Austria by car or train and the airlines would then lose customers, he said.

Bammer said Austrian Airlines is not losing money on this route despite the low fare, partly because it limits the seats available to passengers paying the minimum price. Income from passengers paying more for higher classes or desiring more flexibility in their trip contributed to higher overall revenue from each flight here, he explained.

Eli Messer, the airline's manager for Israel, noted that since that carrier started flying here in 1963, it has carried 350,000 passengers.

Army Radio news service on the block

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The military spokesman yesterday confirmed that the news department in the army radio station may be eliminated as part of the budgetary cuts.

Galei Zahal workers said yesterday that eliminating the news department will not save any money, because most of the station workers are soldiers not paid for their work. The few civilian workers in the news department also hold other positions in the station so they will not be dismissed, it was said.

The station's news bulletins and

news "flashes" during the day are reported to be among the most popular programmes in Israel, and compete successfully with the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

Galei Zahal commander Aluf Mishne Ron Ben-Yishai declined to comment yesterday.

Nobody seemed to know why the news department faces closure. But according to one report, it is a way of demonstrating to the entire country that the IDF is cutting down due to pressures on the Defence Ministry to reduce its budget, without really cutting at all.

Knesset member Mordechai Vir-

shubski (Shinui) sent a telegram to defence minister Rabin urging him to prevent the closure of the department.

Virshubski said the issue is not an internal military matter, but has public implications. A democratic society must preserve more than one source of news, and Galei Zahal is known for the credibility of its news, Virshubski said.

ELECTIONS. — In internal elections held during the last two weekends in Tel Aviv, the ruling faction of the Dan bus cooperative was re-elected by an overwhelming majority.

Communist youth from Cuba due here today

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A delegation of the Cuban Communist Youth League is due in Israel today as the guests of the youth league of Rakah.

Among the Cubans expected is the son of President Fidel Castro.

The group is coming to mark the 60th anniversary of the Communist Youth Leagues world-wide.

Four years in jail for armed robbery

HAZARETH (Itim). — The district court here yesterday sentenced the resident of a nearby village to four years in jail after finding him guilty of armed robbery.

Bassem Darousha, 22, of Iksal,

put a pistol to the head of a taxi-driver on February 1 of this year.

During a struggle which ensued, a bullet was fired but did not strike the driver. The defendant then took the driver's IS950 and fled.

Bezek to ease restoring phone service

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Phone owners who have had service cut off or who have been warned it will be cut off because of unpaid bills will soon be able to call Bezek — rather than having to bring documents to the office — to put things right again.

Bezek, the public telecommunications company, is instituting this "revolution" as an experiment, following complaints over the cutting of thousands of phone lines in recent months for non-payment of bills. If a customer gets a warning, or if his phone is cut off, all he will have to do is pay up and call Bezek. A clerk will ask him where and when he paid the debt, and service will be restored (or not cut off) immediately. The customer must then send the stamped receipt, or a copy of it, to Bezek.

Bezek says it has added staffers specifically to accept such calls from customers. In addition, it has managed to locate extra phone lines to make reaching Bezek less of a challenge.

Another development is the opening of Bezek offices at hours more convenient for working people. The offices will be open from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sundays and Thursdays, in addition to between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. every day but Thursday.

In addition, all of Bezek's service centres for broken phones will be open at the same times: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Sundays and Thursdays.

Bezek is also opening the country's first repair centre for privately owned electronic switchboards in Haifa, which will be open to residents and companies from Hadera to Metulla. Call (04) 221166 for information.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein has promised to speed up the installation of telephones in the new Jewish settlements in the Lower Galilee. During a tour of the settlements, Rubinstein said there is no justification for them having been given lower priority in the supply of phones than settlements in Judea and Samaria.

Rubinstein also promised yesterday that within a year and a half no Arab villages would be left without a telephone.

Bezek has informed the Zichron Ya'acov local council that within a few months it will install a new exchange in the town, making it possible to supply phones to any resident wanting one.

El Al hostesses to flash new look today

Post Aviation Reporter
TEL AVIV. — El Al's stewardesses are to appear tonight in their new dark blue and white uniforms, replacing the light blue and grey they have been wearing for the past 10 years.

The new look is part of the national carrier's attempt to change its image. Danny Kesten, who headed the committee selecting the new uniform, told reporters yesterday.

The airline is also changing some 850 other items, from the colours of sugar packets to those of the trucks carrying invalids to the aircraft. New men's uniforms are also in the works.

Stewardesses interviewed yesterday welcomed the new uniforms — chic, dark blue skirts, pants and jackets, burgundy vests and white blouses. One air hostess told *The Jerusalem Post* she had felt uncomfortable in the old uniform in the presence of elegantly dressed passengers, but is happy with her new appearance.

The uniforms, which will be worn summer and winter, are made in Israel, but material was imported from England to stiffen the collars. The airline is now planning a woolen overcoat, expected to be ready in a year, Kesten said.

Arbeli berates Treasury on handicapped

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Deputy Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino yesterday criticized the Treasury for a recent decision not to continue paying 90 per cent of the cost of special equipment for the handicapped.

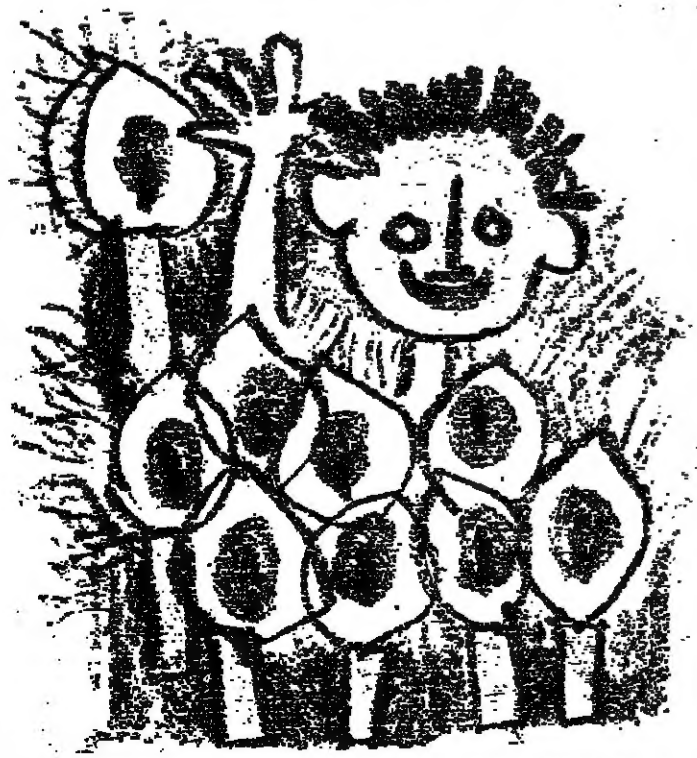
Speaking to representatives of several societies for the handicapped, Arbeli-Almoslino said that although the Health Ministry "is deeply distressed by this, and I personally cannot sleep because of it, the Treasury seems indifferent to the plight of the handicapped."

Arbeli-Almoslino said that because of the new ruling, brought about by budget cuts, "countless children who need hearing aids will not be able to go to school, and amputees and paralyzed persons will have to remain in bed for lack of wheelchairs."

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Motorola opening centre for semiconductor design

By YITZBAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter
RAMAT GAN.— Motorola today is to inaugurate its new semiconductor design centre, one of the most modern in the world. The American parent company, Motorola, Inc., has invested more than \$5 million in the centre.

Murray Goldman, corporate vice-president of Motorola, told a press tour yesterday that the only other semiconductor design centre in Austin, Texas. He said the Israeli centre will work on designing technologies that will be put into use in two to three years.

Zvi Soha, managing director of Motorola Semiconductor, said all the products of the centre will be exported.

Semiconductors are chips for integrated circuits which are used in the microprocessors.

One of the reasons that the design

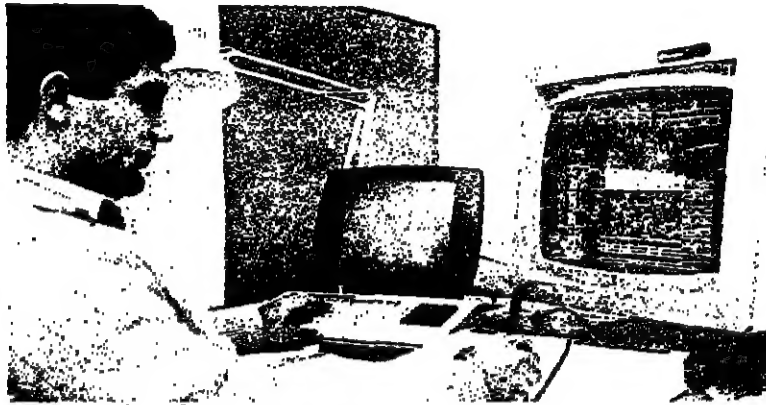
centre was built in Israel is because of high-quality manpower. The company is employing 65 workers, including 50 engineers, 11 layout designers and four administration workers.

The centre was established in 1982 and by 1983 was exporting technology worth \$1.3m. It expects export to be worth \$4m this year and next year it is projected that exports will reach \$6m. Everything is exported to the parent company in the U.S.

Outside of designing and developing prototypes of electronic "chips," the centre is developing software and printed circuit boards.

Goldman revealed that one of the items they are working on is a data communication chip called a "token bus controller."

This chip will enable a more efficient use of local area telephone networks for data transmission between computers.



Team member operating his station.

Super-Sol opens 55th store

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV.— Super-Sol's 55th supermarket will open its doors this morning at 38 Rehov Tagore in the

Ramat Aviv section of Tel Aviv. The 1,200-square-metre store is only a few blocks away from another huge new Super-Sol, which opened in September on Rehov Bialik. The chain's management says that demand in the neighbourhood, which is near Tel Aviv University, justifies the proximity of two giant Super-Sols, in addition to rival Co-op Supermarkets already in the area.

The investment in the new branch was \$3.5 million. There will be a formal opening at 7:00 this evening.

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U.S. may let Poland join IMF

WARSAW (AP).— The U.S. embassy told Polish authorities here on Friday that the United States will lift its objections to Poland's joining the International Monetary Fund, informed sources said.

The decision will end a three-year U.S. veto of Poland's application for membership in the IMF, that was put into effect to protest the imposition of martial law and crackdown on the Solidarity free trade union in December 1981.

Polish officials repeatedly have expressed the country's eagerness to join the IMF because of the benefits it would provide Poland's ailing economy.

Philippines gets \$615 million IMF loan

WASHINGTON (AP).— The Philippines government of President Ferdinand Marcos will get a three-to-five year loan of \$615 million on easy terms, the International Monetary Fund has announced.

Interest payable by the Philippines will vary with the market. At current rates it would work out to some 8.5 per cent a year.

To qualify for the funds, according to the IMF, the Marcos government has agreed:

- to reduce its deficit to "sustainable levels,"
- to get a "prompt and enduring" reduction of inflation, which the fund reported as running over 60 per cent,
- to attack long-standing defects in the structure and management of the economic system. The announcement did not elaborate.

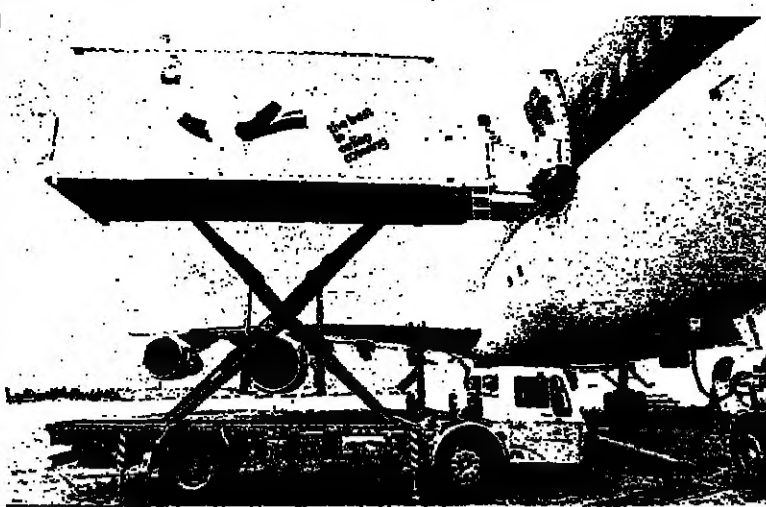
China offshore drilling

PEKING (Reuters).— China said 40 foreign firms had applied to buy information about areas to be offered in its second round of bidding for offshore oil exploration, when the deadline for enquiries expired over the weekend.

The China National Offshore Oil Corporation said 24 of the firms buying information in the second round had signed contracts in the past.

\$86 million in loans

ROME (AP).— The International Fund for Agricultural Development announced on Friday that it will extend \$85.9 million in loans for agricultural development in Malawi, Uganda, Zaire, Bangladesh, Pakistan, El Salvador, Paraguay and Somalia.



The Tamam airline catering company, which supplies about 70 per cent of the meals taken on board at Ben-Gurion Airport, is now using a specialized Mercedes truck for its deliveries. The truck lifts its body up to a height of 6 metres, so that smooth deliveries can be made directly to the plane's galley. Notice the specially low driver's cab, which allows the truck to drive close in below the plane's belly. (Giora Salami)

Sales of new flats down 26%

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter
 A drastic drop—of approximately 26 per cent—was recorded in the sales of new flats and villas by private builders during the third quarter of this year, compared with the preceding quarter, according to figures by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The third quarter slump was even more marked in comparison with the same quarter of last year—down by 38 per cent.

A Statistics Bureau official said that a total of 1,590 new housing units were sold in the July-through-September period, as against 2,150 in the preceding quarter and 2,550 in the third quarter of 1983.

The only locations in which the

drop was not noted were Ashdod, Ashkelon, Bat Yam and Ra'anana. In fact, these cities showed slight increases. Among major losers of new home sales were Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Netanya, Petah Tikvah and Ramat Hasharon.

The official added that the sharp reduction in new housing starts has resulted in a decrease in the number of new flats being offered for sale, along with the drop in sales. Thus, the number of new housing units placed on the market in the third quarter of this year was a mere 7,560, compared with 9,520 in the same quarter a year ago.

As a result, 5,970 unsold new housing units were in builders' inventories at the end of September.

Mexico curbs oil exports in support of Opec

KUWAIT (Reuters).— Mexico's Natural Resources Minister said Friday his country continued to curb vital crude oil sales in support of an Opec agreement to prop up world prices through output cuts—despite Opec acknowledgement that its members have cheated on their own pact.

Mexico, heavily indebted and strapped for foreign revenue, is a leading oil exporter but does not

belong to Opec. But it agreed in October to a request by Opec to trim oil sales to support an Opec accord, slashing group production by 1.5 million barrels per day, to 16 million BPD, to try and shore up oil prices.

The Mexican minister, Francisco Labastida, said Mexico's exports would average 1.44m. BPD through November and December, after averaging 1.54m. BPD in the first ten months of the year.

France boycotts environment conference

LONDON (Reuters).— France will not attend the first environment conference organized by the world's leading industrialized nations, apparently because it is at ministerial rather than summit level. British officials said yesterday.

The conference, starting in London today, takes place amid growing international calls for action on such issues as acid rain and pesticide

pollution, stricter controls on the export of chemicals and the shipment of hazardous wastes.

The U.S., Canada, West Germany, Italy and Japan are sending ministers.

A British Environment Ministry spokesman said: "It seems the French government believe that issues of this kind should be dealt with by heads of government."

Your money & your questions

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN

QUESTION—I have recently received a form from an American company in which I own shares, suggesting that I may be subject to "backstop withholding." Can you explain what this means?

ANSWER—Since January 1, 1984, companies making dividend payments must generally withhold 20 per cent of taxable interest dividend and certain other payments, if the shareholder fails to furnish them with the correct tax buyer identification number. This is generally referred to as "backstop withholding." For most individual American taxpayers, the identification number is the social security number.

QUESTION—Have the annual general meetings of the following companies taken place and if so, have there been resolutions to pay dividends or to give scrip issues (split shares as dividends)? The companies I refer to are Elbit, Elscint and Scitex.

ANSWER—All three companies mentioned in your question are high-technology companies with a relatively high percentage of their budget allocated to research and development. These companies are also generally described as "growth companies." To fuel rapid growth, many high-technology companies, whether American or Israeli, plough back earnings into the company, rather than distributing them in full or in part, as dividends. This is true as far as Elbit, Elscint and Scitex are concerned. In the very recent past, there have been no stock splits or share dividends, either approved or issued by these companies.

QUESTION—You mentioned in a recent column that you felt there was money to be made on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. I followed your advice, and "so far so good." Recently there has been some labour unrest and increased uncertainty as

to raising the prices of subsidized basic foodstuffs and other items. How do you think this will affect the stock market?

ANSWER—If your question really means that you are asking whether to run out of the stock market after having made some paper profits, the answer is a slightly equivocal "no." One line of thinking to which I partially subscribe, is that as long as there is uncertainty regarding the extension of the package deal, there may be relatively sharp price swings on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

However, the main participants in the unity government will be vying for good marks in the Histadrut elections next April. The conclusion is that they will do their best to keep the voter happy. A relatively "tranquil" situation should be good for the stock market. An additional kicker is the \$450 million worth of redeemed savings schemes and bonds which will become due before the end of the calendar year. If only a small portion of this money finds its way to the stock exchange, it will be enough to fuel a meaningful market rally.

QUESTION—We made a contract to rent a flat on a dollar basis as from September 1, 1984 for one year, the first six months' rent to be paid in advance on signing the contract, before September 1, and the balance in February 1985. At what rate of exchange do I have to pay the rent? At \$527 for the dollar? Or at the rate of exchange on the day the payment is due?

ANSWER—On November 26, regulations were issued regarding payments during the period of the freeze. It follows from these regulations that shchel payments linked to the dollar, payable during the period of the freeze will be paid at a shchel equivalent of the November 2 rate, namely \$527 to \$1.00. Payments related to charges after February 1 do not fall under these regulations.

Domestic share of U.S. wines at all-time low

SAN FRANCISCO (AP).— With this country challenged by foreign winemakers, who find the U.S. a virtual free port, the U.S. share of the wine market is as low as it's been in at least a half century, says California's dean of wine consultants.

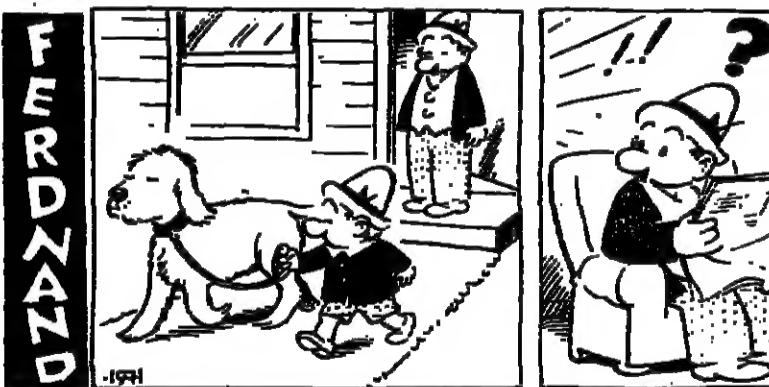
"And if I went to go back to before prohibition, I dare say it has never been that low," said 77-year-old Lou Gomberg last week.

For more than two years, he said, the U.S. share of the domestic wine market has been hovering around 68 per cent, down from about 90 per cent. Highly competitive pricing from foreign labels has driven retail prices on homegrown wine down and surpluses up, forcing domestic gimmicks, like rebates.

The year 1980 was one of the last good wine marketing periods this country has had, running 7.1 per cent ahead of 1981; 1981 ran 5.1 per cent over 1982, and 1982 and 1983 have been virtually flat at a 1 per cent average gain.

Gomberg pointed to the energetic promotional efforts, principally of France and Italy, for the gloomy U.S. picture. The two wine giants share about half the world's production.

CAIRO HOSPITAL.— President Hosni Mubarak yesterday laid the foundation stone for a ten-storey, 1,000-bed hospital to be built by a French consortium with French loans worth over £63 million.



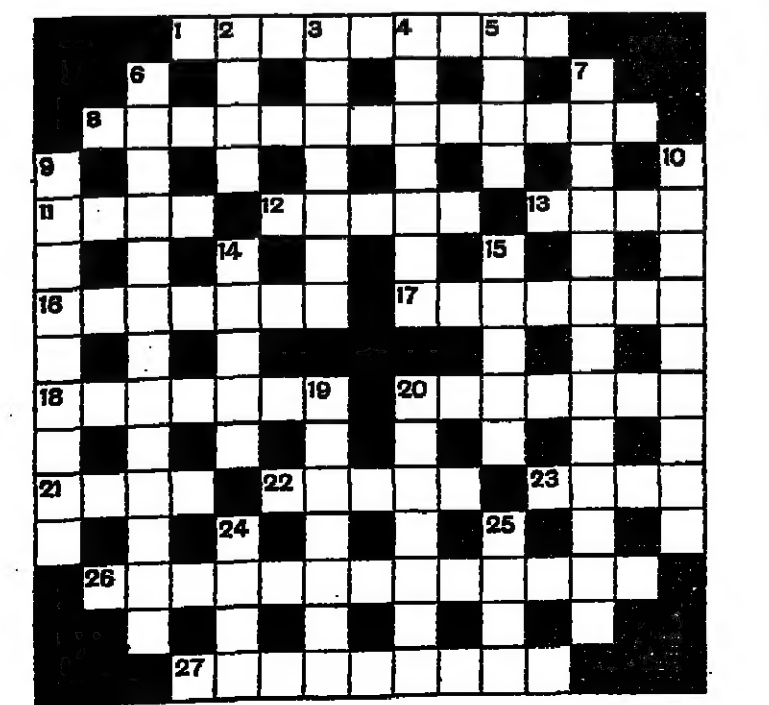
ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Brandy served during the course of a meal? (5, 4)
- He entertains on the stage with traits? (7, 6)
- Soundly taught, but legally wrong? (4)
- Carried right in the middle of the bone (5)
- What the accused has to stump up? (4)
- Mean to give information (3, 4)
- Block of shares representing ranch investment by Lawrence? (7)
- Grimond arranges duets performed like the lancers? (7)
- Team's first man and second man heartened by parent-teacher association? (7)
- Caledonian habit (4)
- Where to keep the bath plug handy? (2, 5)
- One basis of measurement (4)
- Apply oneself diligently as a professional executor (4, 4, 4)
- Clock and watch likely to deceive one? (3-6)

DOWN

- Catch on a tiny branch (4)
- Fail to deflate the tyre (3, 4)
- Small display stand and many other similar things (7)
- Do re me fa so la do. What's wrong? What's missing? (4)
- What a prejudiced man has when peering through a chink (6, 7)
- BBC1, BBC2, ITV, 4 used by government for releasing news (5, 8)
- Somehow Joe talks to the point, but it is no longer amusing (5, 4)
- Every other one is to take it in turns (9)
- Strong point soundly fought (5)
- Lay very softly in the hay, perfectly content (5)
- Practitioner who extracts most from his clients (7)
- Talk to a poor actor on the Midway (7)
- Distorted South London gardens (4)
- Pitcher we're designing (4)



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 101 Emergency phone number in most areas.
 Rape Crisis Centre (24 hours). For help call Tel Aviv, 234819, Jerusalem - 810110, and Haifa 80791.

* "Ezer"—Mental Health First Aid, Tel Aviv: 609911, Tel Aviv: 261112, Haifa: 672222, BeerSheva: 418111, Netanya: 35316.

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- More substantial
- Correct
- Britishly wild
- Wipers
- Judge

DOWN

- Japanese American
- Parent
- Wandering cattle
- Indian address
- Descent
- Resident physician
- Sightless
- Residential establishment
- Nile region
- Senior church member

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Ari Rath
Editor and
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ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, Rehov Carlebach, P.O. Box 81
(91000) Telephone 528181. Telex 26121. TEL AVIV 11 Rehov Carlebach, P.O. Box 20126
(61201) Telephone 294222. HAIFA 16 Rehov Nordau, Hader Hacamel, P.O. Box 4810
(31047) Telephone 645444. Published daily, except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The
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Of tempests and teapots

CHANCES ARE that Shas' announced decision to bolt the national unity government will turn out within the next few hours to have been a tempest in a teapot.

The letter of resignation presented yesterday by Shas' cabinet representative, Yitzhak Peretz, was not scheduled to take effect for 48 hours. In the meantime, strenuous efforts were being made to induce a change of mind within the disaffected Shas, and even more importantly within the Rabbinical Council that controls Shas strategy. For if this small faction of Sephardi Tora Guardians makes good its threat to pull out, the Likud could decide, because of its previous commitments to Shas, to follow suit, thus bringing the government down.

That would be an outcome which all coalition partners, including Shas, would seem anxious to avoid.

In his eagerness to dissuade Shas from leaving, Mr. Peres disregarded the fact that the council is headed by a *dayan*, former chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef, and that the attorney-general has specifically ruled against rabbinical court judges taking part in politics. The premier was acting on the assumption that there are times when the exigencies of politics take precedence.

Mr. Peres has consistently sought to reestablish Labour's relations with the religious parties. And he has done so with a good measure of success. The National Religious Party is steadily moving back to its old affinity for Labour, and Agudat Yisrael is taking a neutral stance between the two major parties.

Preventing another such coup by Labour must be one reason for the Likud's effort to keep Shas, its supposed ally, contented. For if Shas is now unhappy, the fault is largely the Likud's. Last week's compromise awarding an expanded Religious Affairs Ministry to the NRP and an Interior Ministry shorn of some of its functions to Shas, which it later spurned, was very much the work of Herut's Haim Corfu, the transport minister.

And it was Herut's David Levy, the construction minister, who has denied Shas a consolation prize in the form of a deputy construction minister.

Therefore, if Rabbi Peretz is to take back his letter of resignation in time, it is mainly the Likud that must show him, and his rabbinical mentors, the reason for doing so, and without delay. Sensing the urgency, the Likud ministerial team yesterday took a half hour break during the cabinet discussion of the defence budget for talks with Shas.

Today the effort will be joined by the vice-premier, Yitzhak Shamir, who has cut short his visit abroad for the purpose.

A solution should be within reach of the negotiators. For the Likud does not really wish to exit from the national unity government and leave Mr. Peres in control, not even for little Shas' sake, and Shas itself cannot possibly wish to find itself, and the Likud, on the outside, while the NRP takes both the religious affairs and the interior portfolios.

Misplaced zeal

ISRAELIS will regret to see U.S. Ambassador Sam Lewis go, although they know that he will early next year. They can only hope that his successor will be anywhere as friendly and understanding as Sam Lewis has been during his long service in the country.

The successor has not yet been nominated, but the name most prominently mentioned in despatches from Washington is that of Thomas Pickering, a career diplomat, currently U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador. He is reported to be the choice of Secretary of State George Shultz.

Israel's consent will be required for Mr. Pickering to be sent to Tel Aviv, and there is no known reason why such consent should be denied.

Some zealous friends of Israel in the American capital are, however, said to have found such a reason: Mr. Pickering served as ambassador to Amman in the mid-1970s, and was friendly towards the Jordanians. The suggestion is that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should preempt any Israeli action by refusing to confirm Mr. Pickering's appointment.

Mr. Pickering may have difficulty winning confirmation, because one committee member, the arch-conservative Jesse Helms, has conceived an intense dislike for his liberal views on Central America. But Mr. Pickering is not known for any anti-Israel views, and it would be unwise for Israel to interfere with the appointment process or in any way assist the Senate's most anti-Israel member in fighting to block the appointment.

LEVY WARNS

(Continued from Page One)

were not there. Neither was Peretz. They were conferring inside the Prime Minister's Office building, in the room set aside for Shamir. Peretz, who had sent a message to cabinet secretary Yosef Beilin that he would arrive at the meeting at 9:30 a.m., stood his ground against the attempts of the Likud ministers to persuade him to forgo his resignation threat.

Meanwhile, inside the cabinet chambers, Peres said after reading the resignation letter that he was surprised because his conversation late Saturday night with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the head of Shas' rabbinical council, had led him to believe that Shas would wait "another seven to 10 days."

Peres said the last stumbling block in the division of the two portfolios between the NRP and Shas had been the manner in which the budgets for the religious councils were to be fixed. It was a matter of whether the budgets were to be "agreed" between the two parties or merely

"coordinated," Peres said.

The cabinet eventually took up other business (including budgetary cuts in the defence ministry) and broke for lunch at 1 p.m. But after lunch, the Likud ministers did not return, again cloaking themselves with Peretz in vain bid to make him change his mind.

Alignment ministers were furious yesterday that Likud ministers left in the middle of the cabinet meeting.

Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi said the behaviour of the Likud ministers was "disgraceful, just like those who brought us to the situation we are in today. Such an act is unprecedented and unforgivable."

"The Cabinet discussion continued while the Likud ministers were having a political consultation with Shas," he added.

Levy retaliated by calling the criticism against Likud ministers "wretched and provocative. Those responsible for the attacks, pretending to be righteous while the others are wicked are trying to sabotage the possibility of working together."

DISARMING CHALLENGE

By HENRY A. KISSINGER

THE EAGERNESS with which the Soviets have resumed arms control talks marks a complete reversal of a position they have held adamantly for the better part of two years. They have abandoned what they had presented as the immutable precondition: that American missiles first be withdrawn from Europe.

Whether this represents a change of tactics or of strategy, or whether the present Politburo is capable of a fluid diplomacy, is out of Western control. What is in control of the West is to avoid raising excessive expectations about negotiations that have not yet even started.

Western over-eagerness could tempt the Soviets to stall to elicit unilateral concessions. Or else it could produce an agreement that, because it avoids all fundamental issues, will be only an interlude in the East-West conflict.

A great deal depends, therefore, on America's ability to define criteria by which to measure progress. This will be far from simple. For over a decade, the word "détente" polarized the American domestic debate.

The Reagan administration has so far muted this controversy by a skillful balancing act which combined the rhetoric of the opponents of détente with many of the policies of its advocates. But now that negotiations are starting in earnest it will no longer be able to avoid the issues by deft verbal formulations.

THE BEGINNING of wisdom is to admit — however painful this may be in the light of previous pronouncements — that the administration is now involved in an essentially irrevocable process indistinguishable in substance from what used to be called détente.

As its fourth year in office began, the administration obviously concluded that the American people and its allies would not support confrontation except as a last resort. Having eloquently committed itself, the administration's credibility and allied support depend on making clear that any failure of negotiations is not its fault.

American relations with the Soviet Union have been characterized by oscillations between extremes of intransigence and extremes of conciliation — an oscillation to which the present administration is far from immune. Historically, Americans have either sought to resolve tensions in one conclusive negotiation or to defeat a recalcitrant opponent in battle.

In either case there was a clear-cut terminal point. Americans have had little experience in working out a *modus vivendi* — especially on arms — with a nation that continues to proclaim its ideological hostility and to challenge American interests globally.

Unfortunately, the paradox that the apocalyptic nature of nuclear war imposes precisely this necessity

became apparent during the traumatic period when Vietnam and Watergate converged to divide America. Attacking détente proved a convenient — and relatively safe — way to avoid facing the central tragedy that it was America's divisions much more than its adversary's cunning that sapped its credibility and weakened its international position. Between 1969 and 1972 Congress cut \$40 billion from administration requests for defence (in 1970 dollars) — before any arms control agreement was ever concluded.

NO POLICY — least of all détente — can substitute for a strong and purposeful United States. Still, granting that the conflict with the Soviets has no clear-cut terminal point, is it nevertheless possible to make agreements that reduce the danger of nuclear war and the risk of political crisis?

Now that the Reagan administration has ended America's self-flagellation, the question no longer brooks evasion. Regrettably, American governmental processes in any administration are not well-suited for the task of defining long-range national objectives. The adversary process from which American foreign policy emerges leads each de-

arms with, and without, arms control agreements.

Even greater precision should be attainable with respect to the issue of verifiability. There is no doubt that the Soviets have often barely observed the letter of agreements. In some cases they clearly seem to have violated them. Critics have seized on even the most technical discrepancy to assault a process they oppose for quite different reasons. Successive administrations have been reluctant to make a formal charge of violation lest they undermine the domestic support for negotiation and because they did not know what to do about it. The factual content of verification has, as a result, received insufficient study — especially the tolerances that must be part of any agreement.

SOME QUESTIONS such as these require resolution:

- What is the U.S. capacity to verify the numbers of each Soviet strategic weapon?
- What is the margin of uncertainty?
- Is that margin strategically significant either by itself or in combination with other weapons?
- What countermeasures are available to Soviet violations, and how rapidly can they be implemented?

If the U.S. cannot resolve these

The so-called Star Wars issue threatens to turn into one of those symbolic tests of will on which America drains its national purpose

partment to put forward its own, often parochial, set of proposals.

What passes for national strategy is usually a compromise negotiated in the White House and as a last resort imposed by the president. But in foreign policy, success almost invariably depends less on the merit of individual measures than on their relationship to each other and to clearly understood long-range goals. Unfortunately, nuance and continuity have no bureaucratic constituencies.

Over the past four years, the historic rivalry between the State and Defence Departments has more than once degenerated into personal animus. Such disputes are especially difficult for a president to referee. He can never be as "expert" as the experts who disagree before him so eloquently in their recommendations. So in the end, the procedure drives him towards a compromise that may combine the disadvantages of every proposed course of action.

It also tends to transmute factual issues over who is ahead in the arms race. To be sure, the issue involves weapons of unprecedented complexity and for which there is no operational experience. But it cannot be beyond the wit of the American government to devise a comparison of the probable growth of nuclear

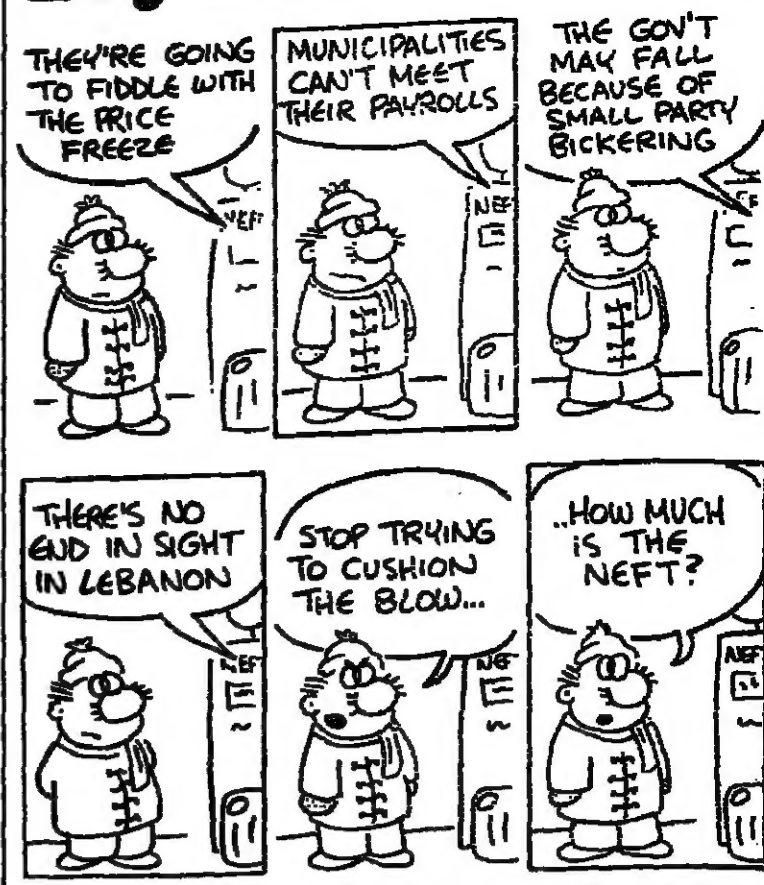
technical questions, it will surely be stymied by the more fundamental issue that each day bears down on it more heavily: contemporary weapons technology has made traditional arms control theory obsolete.

Developed in the late 1950s and early 1960s, this theory assumed stationary missiles and relatively inaccurate single warheads. Since it would take more than one attacking missile to destroy an offensive one, it was plausible to believe that if one could negotiate essential equality of strategic forces, the incentive for surprise attack would have been removed.

Modern technology has overtaken this simple equation. Today, launchers can carry 10 or more highly accurate warheads. Some missiles are becoming mobile. Equality in numbers of launchers has become less and less relevant to strategic stability. Even reductions can prove meaningless or dangerous if they do not ameliorate the disproportion between warheads and launchers.

The appointment of the experienced and sophisticated Paul H. Nitze as special adviser to the secretary of state is an important step — especially in the negotiating field. But nobody can solve the conceptual issues, act as chief negotiator and

Dry Bones



achieve a bipartisan consensus at the same time.

I cannot think of a more suitable occasion for a bipartisan commission to define the basic options for the president and his senior advisers, thereby making it unnecessary for the president to referee abstruse technical decisions.

WHATEVER the organizational device, the internal debate in the administration must be shifted from controversy about the importance of

approach the problem of defence in three alternative ways:

- (1) Impose a moratorium on testing of all defensive weapons at the beginning of the negotiations.
- (2) Use defensive weapons as leverage to obtain a massive cut in offensive forces that reduces the danger of nuclear war.
- (3) Explore an agreement containing a balance between offensive and defensive forces that would substantially reduce the threat of nuclear war.

It is not necessary to decide between the last two options at this stage. Indeed, it cannot be done in the absence of systematic, careful, unemotional studies. But a moratorium at the beginning of the negotiating process — or a slow-down imposed by Congress would be bitterly wrong.

The Soviets have left little doubt that their principal objective in resuming the dialogue is to stop the American efforts to develop a ballistic-missile defence. According to the media, important elements of the American government favour a moratorium, with the argument that testing can always be resumed if negotiations fail. No moratorium in the arms field has ever been ended by the U.S., because negotiations never fail unambiguously, and because no president is eager to tempt the political storm such a step would cause.

A moratorium would complicate the ability to obtain congressional appropriations. It would also surely slow down the pace of negotiations, because the U.S. would have handed the Soviets their ultimate goal as a unilateral gesture.

Before the U.S. goes very far in negotiations, a close process of consultation with its allies must begin. But past experience suggests that they will be nearly as uneasy about a separate bilateral U.S.-Soviet deal as they were previously about being drawn by us into an unwanted confrontation.

Perhaps Soviet rigidity will defeat the best efforts of America and its allies. But it is not often that an opportunity occurs to change East-West relations fundamentally. In the past, the West has too often settled for the essentially psychological relief inherent in an easing of tensions.

Our challenge now is to translate the yearning for peace into concrete terms that improve not only the tone but also the substance of international relations.

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READERS' LETTERS

LIBERALISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Eallan Hirschfeld's reply "Lack of Aliya" (December 6), to David Krivine's November 16 interview with Abba Eban was a perfect manifestation of why Jews from liberal Western countries don't come to Israel. Mr. Hirschfeld is evidently a product of a sterile "economically liberal" environment, one where people are taught that all the world's evils stem from the nasty desire of socialists to distribute national wealth more equally.

Without becoming polemical, we would like to see the direct connection between the failure of Zionism and aliya and the failure of socialism, as Mr. Hirschfeld writes. The term "liberal," as he uses it, smacks of the "Liberal Party" interpretation.

We, as immigrants and Mapam members see the lack in those very socialist values — equal economic responsibility, non-exploitation of the wage-earner and social justice — the values most meaningful to us as former American and Australian still-liberal Jews.

The moral fibre of the early socialists seems to be extinguished. Before we can expect a serious increase in aliya we must recreate the national spirit that once reigned, which in today's Israel, admittedly, has given way to rabid and self-destructive personal aggrandizement in all realms of society. Potential immigrants will see this change in our national outlook and sense it, and some, indeed, will want to experience it, and will come.

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NAMING THE BIBLE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I wonder why David Krivine's article about how to update Halacha (November 30) chooses the term Old Testament to name our Bible. That obviously Christian expression leaves our Bible "old" as if a new scripture should complement it.

Moreover his misuse of Palestine as a name for our land in biblical times is a clear anachronism since the Land of Israel was then called Canaan.

The usage of a gentile terminology to express his worry about the fundamentalist establishment renders his position more vulnerable in the eyes of those rabbis he wants to criticize.

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HELLENISM - IN THOSE DAYS AND TODAY: CULTURAL INFLUENCE ON JUDAISM
Lecture in English by
Professor MOSHE DAVID HERR
Department of History, The Hebrew University
Sunday, December 23, 1984, 8.00 p.m.
Sponsored by The Theodore Delson Lectureship Fund
Candle Lighting and Refreshments
The Public is Cordially Invited to Attend